



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis is an uncommon clinical disease that leads to the degradation of skin tissue, and is commonly referred to as a flesh-eating infection or virus. It was first defined within medical literature in 1883 by Jean Alfred Fournier, and was described as a disease of unknown causes; and
- WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis is a serious infection that may be caused by more than one type of bacteria, including group A Streptococcus and Staphylococcus aureus, as well as bacteria naturally found in the intestines of healthy individuals; and
- WHEREAS: Necrotizing fasciitis can affect individuals of any age for a variety of reasons. An opening in the skin, such as a scrape, burn, insect bite, puncture wound, or laceration incurred during surgery, may allow bacteria to enter the body and result in necrotizing fasciitis. Individuals affected by health problems such as diabetes mellitus, atherosclerotic vascular disease, malignancy, and hypertension are also at risk for the disease due to the body's weakened ability to fight infection; and
- WHEREAS: Though it can infect any part of the body, necrotizing fasciitis commonly spreads throughout the abdomen, arms, legs, extremities, and face, particularly around the eyes. Immediate treatment following a diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis is necessary to ensure the infection does not further destroy soft tissue or reduce blood flow. Prevention of necrotizing fasciitis requires a person maintain good health and a strong immune system, and engage in effective hygiene practices and proper wound care; and
- WHEREAS: While medical progress has assisted in the diagnosis and treatment of necrotizing fasciitis, advanced research is needed to better understand the causes, symptoms, and possible cures of the disease. The State of Georgia recognizes the many citizens and organizations working to increase public awareness of this dangerous disease and enhance the overall quality of life for those affected; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2017 NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS MONTH and May 31, 2017, as NECROTIZING FASCIITIS AWARENESS DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF